

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03106 010830Z

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /028 W

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R 301555Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PFOR TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN LAWS ON QUESTIONABLE PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 94647

1. EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT ASSISTANCE OF RELIABLE TUNISIAN
LEGAL SOURCE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL
OPINION ON APPLICATION OF TUNISIAN LAWS CONCERNING QUESTION-
ABLE PAYMENTS. OUR SOURCE HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO REPORT
TO US SATISFACTORILY. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT
WITH AN INTERIM REPLY TO REFTEL WE HAVE REVIEWED TUNISIAN
PENAL AND COMMERCIAL CODES AND FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS OO
POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL BASED ON OUR REVIEW:

A. YES

B. NO

C. NO

D. NO

E. NO

F. NO

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 03106 010830Z

2. THE TUNISIAN PENAL CODE EXPLICITLY PROHIBITS ALL

PUBLIC OFFICIALS FROM ACCEPTING ANY OFFER OR PROMISE OF A GIFT FOR PERFORMING OR NOT PERFORMING NORMAL AND PROPER FUNCTIONS. GIVING PAYMENTS OF ANY KIND TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IS CLEARLY ILLEGAL AND THERE IS NO SEPARATE REQUIREMENT FOR DISCLOSURE.

3. THERE IS ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY IN TUNISIA, THE DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSD), AND IT WILL RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES. WE DO NOT KNOW OF A REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THESE PAYMENTS.

4. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE SPECIFIC LEGAL PROHIBITION OF PAYMENT OF UNDISCLOSED COMMISSIONS TO INFLUENCE CORPORATE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

5. WE WILL PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH MORE DETAILED AND AUTHORITATIVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL AS SOON AS WE HAVE OBTAINED REPLY FROM COMPETENT TUNISIAN SOURCE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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